



## Greetings FHI Stakeholders!

See below for updates, announcements, and save the dates from the Family Homelessness Initiative.

### INITIATIVE NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

#### FHI ADVISORY GROUP:

The Advisory Group held two meetings in December to review the draft report of the Coordinated Entry System Analysis and prepare initial feedback to the IAC. At the 12/18 meeting the Advisory Group agreed there are some recommendations from the report that could be implemented or tested in the near-term while we continue to work on the larger system changes. These included having FHC run the WATCH background check for families at the initial assessment appointment, ensuring diversion is explored with every family assessed, and explore methods to reduce no-shows and make assessments more efficient. FHC will be working on plans to implement/test strategies related to these recommendations over the next few weeks.

In addition, the Advisory Group is recommending that the IAC approve (at the January meeting) the temporary waiver requested by KCCADV and recommended by Focus Strategies to allow all homeless housing units specifically designated to serve survivors of domestic violence be temporarily removed from FHC until the final model for CEA is determined and approved.

#### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES - NEWS & UPDATES:

##### *Coordinated Entry System – Final Report Received*

Katharine Gale of Focus Strategies, our CEA system consultant, submitted the final report (*'Family Homelessness Coordinated Entry System Analysis and Refinement Project'*) to CEH on December 19. The report includes recommendations broken into four categories: a) Short-term Refinements to Current CEA Model; b) Longer-term Changes Needed Under Any Model; c) Address Access for Special Needs Families; and d) Consider Structural Changes to the Broader CEA Model. The final report was submitted to the IAC in their January meeting packet. Focus Strategies staff will attend the January 12 IAC meeting to give a brief presentation on the recommendations and engage in discussion with the IAC members. In addition, Katharine Gale will attend the January 14 Family Homelessness Advisory Group meeting to continue the discussion on the recommendations and facilitate the group through a working session to further explore specific recommendations and potential future models.

Click on the following link ([Final Report](#)) to review the report.

In addition, you can find all the materials from the community meetings as well as regular updates on key dates on the [CEA page](#) of the website. If you have any questions about the process, please feel to contact Michelle Valdez at [michelle.valdez@cehkc.org](mailto:michelle.valdez@cehkc.org).

##### *System Realignment Work*

Realignment efforts among funding partners and providers continue. Current efforts include:

- 1) Analyzing each project's funding and capital investments to determine where opportunities and barriers to realignment exist;
- 2) Identifying the permanent housing model to which each agency will realign (agencies may determine more than one model is preferred);
- 3) Assessing the viability of a project's realignment; and
- 4) Identifying policy and regulatory barriers to realignment informing coordination needed with local, state, and/or federal funding partners.

If you are considering or would like to undertake realignment at your organization in a future phase, please contact [triina.tennelo@cehkc.org](mailto:triina.tennelo@cehkc.org). We are available to provide support as needed. We are also committed to understanding the scope of changes occurring in the system; therefore, it will be very helpful to know if your program is considering making any changes as we plan for future efforts.

## OTHER NEWS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPCOMING FUNDING OR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

#### *The Homestretch – Documentary Screening at NW Film Forum*

CEH and the NW Film Forum will present The Homestretch, a documentary that follows three homeless teens as they fight to stay in school, graduate, and build a future, on January 12, 2015 at 7pm. Details and ticket info are available [here](#). The screening will be followed by a panel discussion including representatives from Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness (YAEH).

#### *T3's Spring 2015 Online Course Schedule is Live!*

Available courses include the following:

##### *Developing Your Identity, Skills, and Confidence as a Supervisor*

Join us for a five-week course, starting March 12, 2015 that focuses on development of supervisory skills. We will emphasize supervision as a relationship and focus on supervision's core functions: administrative, evaluative, educative, and supportive. Concepts from Motivational Interviewing and trauma-informed care will inform our conversation. [Register here](#).

##### *How to Implement Critical Time Intervention*

Critical Time Intervention (CTI) is a focused, time-limited approach to case management that connects people with community supports as they transition into housing from homelessness or institutional settings such as prisons and hospitals. Starting on March 26, 2015, this course will give your agency the tools it needs to implement CTI. We bring together national CTI experts, a team-based learning approach, and engaging multimedia technology. The course covers CTI principles, evidence for CTI, phases of CTI, and skills for implementation. [Register here](#).

##### *Bringing Trauma-Informed Care to Everyday Practice*

Becoming trauma-informed means using knowledge of trauma and recovery to design and deliver services. What does that actually mean for your daily work? How does it impact the way you run your program? Starting on April 1, 2015, this instructor-led online course will discuss what is unique about a trauma-informed approach, and give participants the opportunity to apply an understanding of trauma to their work as individuals, teams, and organizations. [Register here](#).

Have questions? Email us at [info@thinkt3.com](mailto:info@thinkt3.com) or call 617.467.6014.

#### *Renter's Toolkit*

The YMCA has developed a renter's toolkit with helpful information about renting apartments and basic tenant and landlord rights-- the toolkit is attached.

## WHAT'S COMING UP

### *Monthly FHI Stakeholder Information Session*

The Family Homelessness Initiative staff host monthly information sessions on the 3rd Wednesday of the month to talk with local stakeholders (providers and funders) about the work of the Initiative. This is an opportunity to hear about current projects, what is coming up next, and to ask questions and provide input. The FHC Feedback Meetings, which are an opportunity for service providers and partners to hear updates on new policies/procedures at FHC and to provide feedback, will directly follow the Info Session each month.

**THE NEXT FHI INFO SESSION** will be:

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

9:00-10:00am at the 2100 Building

(Immediately followed by the **FHC Feedback Meeting** from 10:00-11:00am)

Location: 2100 Building (2100 24th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144)

**Topic:** Updates on CEA report and next steps, realignment, and System Innovation Grants

Contact Triina Tennelo at [triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov) or visit the Initiative website for more information on the Info Session or Emily Harris-Shears at [EmilyHS@ccsww.org](mailto:EmilyHS@ccsww.org) for more information on the FHC Feedback Meetings.

***Family Shelter Provider Meeting***

On January 22, Building Changes and CEH Family Homelessness Initiative are co-hosting a meeting for publicly funded shelter providers that received System Innovation Grant dollars for the Shelter to Housing Project. Shelter providers will receive a second announcement directly from Building Changes. Please look out for the RSVP. If you have questions, please contact Nick Codd ([nick.codd@buildingchanges.org](mailto:nick.codd@buildingchanges.org)) or Triina Tennelo ([triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov)).

**CONTACT US**

If you have questions about any of the above updates, or if you would like us to share any announcements, opportunities, or items on your behalf in future monthly emails, you can contact Michelle Valdez at [michelle.valdez@cehkc.org](mailto:michelle.valdez@cehkc.org).

**Please feel free to contact any FHI staff member for more information or technical assistance:**

Debbi Knowles, [debbi.knowles@cehkc.org](mailto:debbi.knowles@cehkc.org), 206-263-9088

Triina Tennelo, [triina.tennelo@cehkc.org](mailto:triina.tennelo@cehkc.org), 206-263-9110

Michelle Valdez, [michelle.valdez@cehkc.org](mailto:michelle.valdez@cehkc.org), 206-263-1350

Visit our website to learn more about the Family Homelessness Initiative or to locate any of the documents referenced in this email at [www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness](http://www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness).

***For more information on the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) or to see the most recent monthly newsletter, go to the website at [www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org)***